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ODP-0-1238
19 September 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration
THROUGH : Director of Data Processing
25X1A FROM : [REDACTED]
Systems Programming Division, ODP
SUBJECT : Reimbursement of Travel Expenses

1. Twice a year, users of large-scale computers meet to discuss problems and exchange ideas. We are joined together in an organization named SHARE, whose aim is to promote uniformity and standards in a fast-growing industry. At the request of my Branch Chief, I attended the March, 1980 SHARE convention. Upon returning, I filled out a travel expense form requesting reimbursement for my travel costs, which included round-trip transportation, lodging and meals, and conference registration fee. The budget and finance officers assigned to ODP by the Office of Finance disallowed my claim for round-trip transportation, saying the Agency will not pay for any transportation via private aircraft.

2. I have disputed this claim within ODP to no avail, and I now appeal to you to review the facts and listen to my arguments in this matter. These arguments are in three areas; namely, receiving and acting upon false information, authorized versus unauthorized modes of travel, and the Agency view of private aircraft travel vis-a-vis the rest of the Government. These arguments are not cumulative, but rather each of them is, in my opinion, sufficient in and of itself to justify my requests.

25X1A 3. Prior to the trip, I went to the finance officers, [REDACTED] for the expressed purpose of informing them that I was flying my own airplane and to be sure that my travel would be reimbursed. I asked if

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there was anything I needed to do because of this special (i.e., different) mode of travel. They assured me that I would be reimbursed and that there was nothing special to do because I was traveling by private aircraft.

4. Upon returning, I filled out the travel expense forms, and it was then that the same two budget and finance officers told me the Agency would not pay for my transportation because I traveled via private aircraft.

5. In my communications within ODP in an attempt to resolve the problem, [REDACTED] 'cannot remember' my conversation with them prior to the trip (see attachment). A co-worker, [REDACTED], accompanied me on the trip, and also accompanied me on my pre-trip meeting with the finance officers. He has no difficulty at all recalling the conversation.

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6. I followed the rules as I understood them, asked for guidance from the responsible component, was given misleading information, acted on the basis of that information, and was subsequently penalized. This is not fair, and I appeal to you to recognize the mistake and take appropriate action.

7. Repeatedly throughout this entire affair, another point has been missed -- and that is the issue of authorized versus unauthorized travel. In his memo to me (attached), [REDACTED] (Chief, Administration Staff, ODP) has, in my opinion, an incorrect view of the issue. The subject is NOT as his memo states, a request for 'reimbursement for use of private aircraft.' I am requesting reimbursement for the money I spent to transport myself to California and back. The government has stated that it will pay the lower of two amounts -- an amount based on so much per mile (currently 20 cents), or an amount equal to round-trip coach airfare. All I am requesting is one of those amounts.

25X1A

8. The third point I wish to make concerns the rule stating that POV excludes private aircraft. This rule is unique to the Agency and appears to be arbitrary and capricious. No one I have talked with has been able to give me a reason for this rule. Several people have guessed that it has to do with extraneous liability. The government

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would be no more or less liable in the event of an airplane accident than they would in the event of an accident involving a car. Pilot friends of mine in other U.S. Government agencies (Department of Energy, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Department of the Navy, to name a few) routinely travel via private aircraft on business trips. It has long been recognized that the safety of traveling in an airplane exceeds that of automobile travel. I see no reason why the Agency should single out this form of travel. The definition of POV should be in keeping with the definition followed by the rest of the U.S. Government; that is, POV is any privately owned vehicle whose primary purpose is to transport people.

9. In summary, I cannot see any reason for disallowing my claim of transportation to and from the SHARE convention. I can see no reason why it should be of the slightest concern to the Agency that my POV is an airplane. I am not trying to cheat or defraud or deceive the government in any way. Your help in this matter is appreciated.



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Attachments: a/s

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ODP STAFF SUMMARY SHEET
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SUBJECT:

Reimbursement for Use of Private Aircraft.

PURPOSE OF ACTION:

Answering [REDACTED] memorandum dated 27 June 1980.

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ACTION OFFICER (Incl. Ext.)

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REFERENCES:

[REDACTED] memorandum dated 27 June 1980
[REDACTED] revised 25 Oct 1977

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RESOURCE PACKAGE & COSTS (If applicable):

THIS PAPER IS FOR YOUR:

COMPONENT/ OFFICER	INFORMATION/ COMMENT	CONCURRENCE	APPROVAL/ SIGNATURE	INITIALS	DATE
DD/ODP		XX	*	EB	31 Oct 80
C/AS					

DISCUSSION:

note: please from [REDACTED]
it will help
Gid

come to see me if

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31 Jul 1980
DATE

ADD TO OFFICIAL FILE YES ___ NO ___

Explanatory Notes

Subject: Self-explanatory - include ODP number if applicable.

Purpose: What will action accomplish, e.g., "Reply to letter from OMB," "Obtain DDA approval to spend \$100M," "Comply with periodic reporting requirements," etc.

Action Officer: Name, organization, extension.

References: List of pertinent references. Copies should be attached in order listed.

Resource Package and Costs: Identify the Resource Package and total costs for each fiscal year if the action involves funds.

Routing: Who should see the action, whether for information, comment, concurrence, or signature/approval. The individual reviewing the action should initial and date where indicated. Place an "x" under the appropriate column for each component. If concurrences are contained on record copy of action, simply refer to the action.

Discussion: Narrative discussion of action - what led up to the action, why is it necessary, what do you want done. The pertinent references should be explained insofar as they relate to this action. If the action itself contains all this information, simply refer to the action.

Signature of Action Officer: Sign and date form.

Classification: Mark at the top and bottom of page, as appropriate.

MEMORANDUM FOR: *CLAD*

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*a most unfortunate misunderstanding
and a hard lesson.*

CLJ

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STATINTL

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